Statement

Per hectare Fertilizer Consumption (N+P+K) during 2007—08 based on 2005—06 provisional gross cropped area.

State/U.T.	Kg./ha
Andhra Pradesh	199.64
Karnataka	115.71
Kerala	69.76
Tamil Nadu	178.29
Gujarat	143.60
Madhya Pradesh	66.39
Chhattisgarh	76.90
Maharashtra	103.11
Rajasthan	45.47
Haryana	187.63
Himachal Pradesh	53.15
Jammu and Kashmir	71.78
Punjab	209.99
Uttar Pradesh	149.61
Bihar	162.81
Orissa	51.85
West Bengal	144.21
Arunachal Pradesh	2.73
Assam	57.34
Tripura	41.24
Manipur	85.25
Meghalaya	15.81
Nagaland	2.17
Mizoram	39.90
All India	117.07

Encouragement for cultivation of organic food

10. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the cultivation, production and sale scenario of 'organic food' in the country;

(b) the steps Government is taking to familiarise the farmers about it;

(c) the steps Government is taking to popularize and switchover to organic food;

(d) the export potential of 'organic food':

(e) the schemes/incentives to encourage its cultivation; and

(f) the comparative profit margin to farmer, in cultivation of one hectare of wheat, by use of chemical fertilizers *vis-a-vis* organic manure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As on March 31, 2008, total certified area under organic cultivation is about 4.01 lakh hectares in the country. Estimated production under certified organic management during 2007–08 was 9.60 lakh metric tones. At present no record is available regarding sale of organic food.

(b) and (c) To familarise the farmers about organic cultivation, a National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) has been taken up from October 2004 under which farmer's trainings on organic farming, field demonstrations on organic inputs, field demonstrations on enriched biogas slurry on farmers fields, creating awareness through seminars/exhibition and publicity through print and electronic media are being organized.

Although, the Government is popularizing organic farming among farmers, there is no proposal to completely switchover to organic food.

(d) Global market for organic products is estimated as US $ 38.6 Billion (IFOAM Annual Report 2008). India's export has grown from Rs. 6.1 crore in 2002-03 to Rs. 301 crore in 2006-07, which is about 0.2% of global market. Thus, there is immense potential for exports.

(e) Apart from trainings, demonstrations, seminars/exhibitions and publicity through print and electronic media the other incentives being provided to encourage organic cultivation under the National Project on Organic Farming are:-

(i) Capacity building for promotion of organic farming through service providers;

(ii) Setting up of organic input production units of fruit/vegetable waste compost units, bio-fertilizer production units and vermi-culture hatcheries; and

(iii) Market Development and promotion.

Government is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the country from 2005-06 under which promotion of organic farming has been included as one of the components and financial assistance is being provided for organic cultivation of horticultural crops, setting up of vermi compost units and for organic farming certification.

(f) On an average, organic commodities can be produced and sold at premiums ranging from 35-70 per cent or more. The cost of wheat cultivation by using organic manures (produces on farm) is at par with the same using chemical fertilizers.